

# Brentwood/Cavalier

## Art in Private Development Fact Sheet



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Photo: Nikki Glen

### Artwork

*Our Community* (5 Sidewalk panels)  
*The Beauty around Us* (2 Sculptural Benches)

### Location

Brentwood/Cavalier Neighborhood

### Artist

Nikki Glen and Helen Helwig

### Completion

2002

### Material

Handmade Clay and Stone

**Description:** These sidewalk panels and benches, created for the Brentwood/Cavalier Neighborhood Association, were shaped from handmade clay and stone. Some special glazes were developed by Helen Helwig. The benches stand at two entryways to the neighborhood. This community-involvement artwork was awarded a Tempe Beautification award.

**Funding:** The project was funded in part by the city of Tempe Neighborhood Grant Program.

**Artists' biographies:** The southwest Public Art Group specializes in high-quality public, corporate and individual art commissions that both delight the eye and enhance community life. Professional artists, Helen Helwig and Nikki Glen, work together to create high-quality public art. Helwig brings more than 25 years of experience in clay design and fabrication, and Glen has directed more than 50 community public art projects. Both artists have directed many large-scale public art installations. Helen Helwig is an award-winning clay artist who develops innovative glaze techniques and Glen is an outstanding designer and muralist. In 2005, Glen was painting murals and large scale charcoal studies for future public art installations. She is inspired by everything around her and strives to make a measurable difference by enhancing the quality of life and making the world a better place. Contemporary themes excite and inspire her. She loves to collaborate with other artists, sculptors and community residents. Glen is also a master designer and uses her imagination to come up with images that can be drawn or painted or sculpted. Her active mind loves to put several (possibly unrelated) images together to form a completely new concept or idea. The viewer is always considered in this ongoing dialog with life.

**Artists' statement:** "We held community workshops and sent out surveys to involve the community in the planning and fabrication of the elements within the mosaics. The vision of the neighborhood association was to have an artist-designed mosaic to create a neighborhood identity and to enhance the entry for the many pedestrians and bicycle riders who use this route. The artists and the neighborhood association together wanted to create a unified and welcoming feeling and they wanted to involve the residents in the brainstorming of the ideas and the creation of the artwork itself.